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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. In adopting its resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997, which set out the framework for the seven subprogrammes in programme 15 of the medium-term plan, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) decided to review its conference structure, including its thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, not later than at its fifty-eighth session, in 2002. Pursuant to that decision as well as the new regional and global mandates that have emerged subsequent to the adoption of the medium-term plan by the General Assembly in 2000, the secretariat initiated efforts to revitalize ESCAP to bring about a clearly focused and effective programme that reflects the priority needs of the members and associate members of the Commission and at the same time reflects the millennium development goals as contained in the Millennium Declaration.

4. The Ministerial Round Table held during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in April 2001, expressed its support for the secretariat's efforts to revitalize ESCAP, and also suggested that it should clearly define ideas for the reform of ESCAP and submit them to the members and associate members for consideration during an intergovernmental meeting to be held prior to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. In that connection, the secretariat formulated a concept paper which outlined: (a) the three themes of ESCAP, namely, poverty

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reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues; and (b) a new programme framework and focus areas for ESCAP. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, at its retreat in November 2001 and at an informal working group meeting in January 2002, expressed general support for the new programme framework and focus areas.

5. The Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Its Subsidiary Structure, held from 26 to 28 March 2002, endorsed the three themes and the general thrust and focus areas of the programme in line with the three themes. In that connection, the Intergovernmental Meeting also endorsed the following programme areas: poverty and development policy analysis; statistics; poverty reduction practices; international trade, industry and investment; transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism; environment and sustainable development; information, communications and space technology; and emerging social issues. Accordingly, the programme structure is proposed to be revised as follows:

Theme: Poverty reduction

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development (replaces old subprogramme 2, Development policy and research analysis, and subprogramme 4, Population and rural and urban development);

Subprogramme 2. Statistics (replaces old subprogramme 7, Statistics);

Theme: Managing globalization

Subprogramme 3. Trade and investment (replaces old subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation);

Subprogramme 4. Transport and tourism (replaces old subprogramme 6, Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development);

Subprogramme 5. Environment and sustainable development (replaces old subprogramme 5, Environment and natural resources development);

Subprogramme 6. Information, communication and space technology (new subprogramme);

Theme: Addressing emerging social issues

Subprogramme 7. Emerging social issues (replaces old subprogramme 3, Social development).

6. The revisions to the medium-term plan proposed in the annex have been endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, held in Bangkok from 16 to 22 May 2002.

7. Because of the magnitude of the revisions, it was not considered practical to show the changes by using bold face for the new text and strikeout for the text to be deleted. Accordingly, the narrative is presented as new and does not identify separately the new text and the text to be deleted. Instead, cross references to

paragraphs in the existing medium-term plan are indicated in italics whenever relevant.

8. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, sects. 1-33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Overall orientation

15.1 The overall purpose of the programme is to promote the economic and social development of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Specifically, it will aim to enhance the capacity of the members and associate members to design and implement policies and strategies that are pro-poor, that allow them to maximize benefits from globalization and that promote equal opportunities for the productive participation of all social groups and overall improvement of the quality of life. This will be pursued by the Commission in cooperation and collaboration with global, regional, subregional and national parties involved with development activities in the region, including civil society and the private sector, thereby fostering synergies and avoiding duplication. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 15.1]*

15.2 The mandate for the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947 and 414 (XIII) of 20 September 1951, by which ESCAP was established. The mandate has been further elaborated in various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, including Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which ESCAP was designated to serve as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for Asia and the Pacific and as an executing agency for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects. The Assembly's adoption of the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 and the road map towards its implementation (A/56/326) provide further direction to the programme. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 15.2]*

15.3 The programme objectives will be pursued in line with three key themes, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. Poverty is the leading development challenge facing the members and associate members in Asia and the Pacific, with two thirds of the world's poor living in the region. The urgent need for effective action in poverty reduction is reflected in the United Nations millennium development goals, which call for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by 2015. Poverty is multidimensional and dynamic, with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated focus on economic, social and environmental areas. At the same time, the ongoing process of globalization has profound and still unfolding implications for economic and social development in the region. The challenge is how to strengthen the capacity of the members and associate members to cope with the process of globalization, that is, formulating and implementing effective policies to maximize benefits from the opportunities offered by globalization while minimizing the inevitable costs. The members and associate members also face new and continuing challenges from global and regional development trends that deeply affect individuals, families and communities. Many in the region face barriers to equal participation and full enjoyment of the right to development because of gender, age, disability, income or other factors. There are other threats to "human security" related to the increase in HIV/AIDS infection, as well as human trafficking and other crimes. Further new regional challenges arise from the rapidly ageing population and international migration, which have an impact on overall socio-economic development. *[new]*

15.4 The Commission's overall strategy for the period 2002-2005 for meeting the programme's objectives is contained in seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, clustered under three key themes as follows:

- Poverty reduction: subprogramme 1, Poverty and development, and subprogramme 2, Statistics;
- Managing globalization: subprogramme 3, Trade and investment, subprogramme 4, Transport and tourism, subprogramme 5, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 6, Information, communication and space technology;

- Addressing emerging social issues: subprogramme 7, Emerging social issues.

The programme will provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations to identify emerging issues of concern for the economic and social development of the region and to formulate appropriate responses to the challenges arising from those issues in close cooperation with the United Nations development system operating in the region. The forum will also facilitate the formulation of regional positions for global conferences and monitoring and reporting on progress made in implementing global agreements at the regional level. The implementation strategy will include a balance between normative and operational work, with a particular focus on following up the achievements made towards the relevant millennium development goals, policy-oriented advisory services and the sharing of best practices in the region. The programme will concentrate on technical cooperation projects that could make a substantial contribution to development efforts. *[new]*

15.5 In line with global priorities, the programme will focus on the special needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the countries with economies in transition, to accelerate their integration into the regional and global economies. Gender equality and mainstreaming and the rights and needs of marginalized social groups, especially the poor, women, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS, will be promoted in the development of a caring society. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 15.5]*

15.6 In the pursuit of its objectives, the programme will continue to collaborate with the Bretton Woods institutions, the Asian Development Bank and subregional organizations. The programme will also promote close cooperation and coordination with the other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in undertaking regional activities through the regional coordination meeting and its thematic working groups. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 15.6].*

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

[replaces old subprogrammes 2 and 4; old paras. 15.12-15.15 and 15.20-15.24 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.7 The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to identify and analyse opportunities and constraints for poverty reduction and to design and implement policies and programmes to reduce poverty in accordance with the relevant millennium development goals.

Strategy

15.8 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Development Research Policy Analysis Division, the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Conduct multidisciplinary research on pro-poor policies and strategies, including in the nexus between poverty, population and the environment, with a special focus on the larger socio-economic and institutional aspects of poverty reduction; and monitor global and regional economic trends and issues that have an impact on poverty;

(b) Identify, analyse, document and disseminate best practices in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas, test those practices through pilot projects and advise the members and associate members in the region on and improve their capacity for the adaptation and replication of those practices;

(c) Work with regional networks of institutions and organizations concerned with poverty alleviation and establish regional poverty alleviation forums where stakeholders discuss and review pro-poor policies and practices and share experiences.

15.9 In pursuing this strategy, ESCAP will focus on economic prospects and issues related to poverty levels, particularly as a thrust in the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, as well as strengthening the economic and social position of the poor, enhancing their participation in decision-making, promoting information and communication technology for poverty reduction, securing sustainable access of the poor to natural resources and reducing the impact of natural disasters on the poor. ESCAP will give special attention to reducing poverty in the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The

millennium development goals pertaining to improving the lives of slum-dwellers will also be addressed. The subprogramme will be guided by the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as the Monterrey Consensus adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Expected accomplishments

15.10 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) recognition of ESCAP as a think tank with a thorough understanding of poverty levels and effective poverty reduction policies and programmes in the region; (b) increased capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to design and implement pro-poor policies and programmes and best practices in the area of poverty reduction; and (c) enhanced regional cooperation among ESCAP members and associate members to support national poverty reduction efforts.

Indicators of achievement

15.11 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the views of members and associate members on the usefulness of the role played by ESCAP as a think tank with a thorough understanding of poverty levels and effective poverty reduction policies and programmes in the region; (b) the number of pro-poor policies and programmes designed by ESCAP members and associate members in response to the relevant millennium development goals; and (c) the number of best practices in poverty reduction identified, tested through pilot projects and adapted and replicated in the region.

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

[replaces old subprogramme 7; old paras. 15.35-15.38 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.12 The objective is to improve the statistical capabilities of ESCAP members and associate members, with a special focus on strengthening their capacity to generate poverty data and measure progress towards the millennium development goals.

Strategy

15.13 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Contribute to the development of common methodologies and harmonized approaches for the inter-country comparison of poverty levels as well as for measuring and monitoring poverty;

(b) Contribute to improving the capacity of national statistical systems, particularly in priority areas determined by the members and associate members, for the purposes of informed planning, policy formulation, decision-making and monitoring of progress. To this end, the use of improved methodology for data collection, processing and analysis and the greater utilization of statistics will be promoted;

(c) Collect and disseminate statistical data on the countries and areas of the region, taking into account national, regional and global demands; coordinate international requests to reduce the response burden on the members and associate members; and promote data-sharing through electronic technology. Special attention will be paid to improving the accessibility and international comparability of the collected data;

(d) Strengthen the involvement of the members and associate members of the region in the global statistical system. In line with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, ESCAP will initiate and coordinate at the regional level the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of its members and associate members;

(e) Enhance the role of information and communication technology in statistical offices and promote its application to assist the members and associate members in measuring the knowledge-based economy and managing globalization;

(f) Strengthen the network of regional statistical institutions that will provide the basic data for monitoring poverty reduction policies and strategies and other relevant millennium development goals.

15.14 This strategy will be achieved through the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings; the collection, analysis and dissemination of

data and information on economic, social and environmental statistics and poverty indicators; the promotion of improved coordination of the statistical work in the region; and the provision of advisory services for capacity-building in the fields of statistics and poverty indicators. The provision of training and related materials will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, which is a subsidiary institution of ESCAP.

Expected accomplishments

15.15 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) significant improvements for most ESCAP members and associate members in the reliability and comparability of estimates of poverty incidence and poverty-related development indicators; (b) increased capacity in the region, especially in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, to identify, collect, process, analyse, utilize and disseminate data needed for national economic and social development, including the capacity to support the analysis of gender issues; (c) improved coordination, collaboration and sharing of information, increased use of common statistical standards in the region and improved availability of comparable statistical data on the countries and areas of the region; and (d) more systematic information technology planning by statistical offices and the adoption of coherent policies in this field.

Indicators of achievement

15.16 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) an increase in the number of members and associate members producing poverty statistics of reasonable quality; (b) the milestones achieved by members and associate members in implementing the 1993 System of National Accounts; (c) the number of participants, especially from least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, indicating that meetings and training by ESCAP made a significant contribution to their capacity to identify, collect, process, analyse, utilize and disseminate the data needed for national economic and social development, including statistics on gender issues; (d) improved availability of comparable statistical data on countries and areas of the region; and (e) the number of members and associate members and national statistical services adopting information technology plans and strategies.

Subprogramme 3
Trade and investment

[replaces old subprogramme 1; old paras. 15.7-15.11 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.17 The objective of this subprogramme is to enhance the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to integrate effectively into the world economy through sustained trade and investment.

Strategy

15.18 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the International Trade and Industry Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Focus on effective integration into the global and regional trading systems, trade efficiency and competitiveness, and investment promotion and enterprise development;

(b) Play a proactive role in promoting policy dialogues and operational activities including training, advisory services and regional and inter-subregional networking;

(c) Adapt innovative and pragmatic approaches to the capacity-building of both human resources and institutions of ESCAP members and associate members for their effective integration into international and regional economies, focusing on trade and investment;

(d) Support the networking of research and training institutions in the region.

This strategy will be pursued through close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Expected accomplishments

15.19 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) improved understanding by national policy makers of multilateral trade agreements and their implications, including the process of accession to WTO; (b) increased participation of developing members and associate members in regional trading agreements, in particular, the Bangkok Agreement; (c) enhanced knowledge of national policy makers in order to

increase trade efficiency by reducing procedural and administrative barriers to trade and to simplify and harmonize trade documentation; (d) enhanced knowledge of central and local officials in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the impediments and other issues related to investment attraction, facilitation and implementation measures; and (e) enhanced capacity of national institutions assisting small and medium-sized enterprises of developing country members and associate members, in particular, the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to increase their export competitiveness.

Indicators of achievement

15.20 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) an increase in the number of multilateral agreements that better reflect the interests of developing country members and associate members; (b) an increase in the number of new accessions to WTO from the region; (c) an increase in the number of new signatories to the Bangkok Agreement; (d) an increase in the number of members and associate members introducing new trade efficiency measures; (e) an increase in the number of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition introducing new or modified legislation, regulations and/or policies with regard to investment attraction, facilitation and implementation measures; and (f) an increase in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises expressing satisfaction with the support they received from the ESCAP-assisted institutions of members and associate members, in particular the institutions in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Subprogramme 4
Transport and tourism

[replaces old subprogramme 6; old paras. 15.30-15.34 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.21 The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to formulate and implement national regional and interregional transport policies and initiatives with a view to improving access to regional and global markets and to strengthen the role of tourism in economic and social development.

Strategy

15.22 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Coordinate and facilitate the development of regional and interregional transport linkages that will enhance the ability of ESCAP members and associate members to compete in regional and global markets;

(b) Play a proactive role in promoting the development of national and regional transport systems through international policy dialogues and operational activities as well as regional and inter-subregional networking;

(c) Use innovative and pragmatic approaches to strengthen institutional capacity at the national level to formulate and implement sustainable transport policies and planning, taking into account economic, social and environmental considerations;

(d) Promote sustainable tourism development by strengthening policy development capabilities and enhancing regional cooperation, especially the networking of tourism training institutions.

15.23 This strategy will be pursued through the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure in November 2001, including the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1997-2006), and the Plan of Action on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005). The means to be used will include the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings; the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information on transport infrastructure, transport facilitation and tourism to enhance awareness of critical regional, interregional and global issues and sustainable strategies for development; the promotion of regional and interregional cooperation in addressing

common issues and problems; and the development and delivery of training materials and the provision of advisory services for capacity-building in the areas of transport infrastructure, transport facilitation and tourism.

Expected accomplishments

15.24 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) expanded geographic coverage and capacity of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes, the introduction and upgrading of standards for main transport infrastructure linkages and improved integration of transport networks to serve regional and global markets; (b) enhanced participation of stakeholders in the transport policy, planning and development processes, including economic, social and environmental considerations; (c) identification and removal of specific infrastructural, regulatory, procedural and documentary bottlenecks in the transport process inhibiting the seamless movement of goods, people and services; (d) strengthened capacity of tourism planners and institutions in promoting sustainable development of tourism; and (e) increased cooperation among tourism agencies and organizations and educational and training institutes in the region.

Indicators of achievement

15.25 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway and the number of members and associate members acceding to that agreement; the operationalization of container block trains along selected corridors within the Trans-Asian Railway system; and plans to develop intermodal logistics centres; (b) the number of agencies in ESCAP member and associate member countries taking follow-up action to facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the transport process; (c) policies and measures introduced by members and associate members following ESCAP recommendations for the removal of physical and non-physical bottlenecks in the transport process; (d) the enumeration of follow-up actions taken by members and associate members on the recommendations of ESCAP in relation to policy formulation and planning in the tourism sector; and (e) the number of cooperative arrangements developed and implemented by members and associate members participating in the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism.

Subprogramme 5 Environment and sustainable development

[old paras. 15.25-15.29 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.26 The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the national capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to design and implement environmental and sustainable development policies and strategies that would enable them to maximize the benefits of globalization.

Strategy

15.27 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Play a proactive role in promoting policy dialogues that integrate environmental considerations into overall economic and social development plans, as well as in specific sectors, such as water and energy resources;

(b) Undertake regular monitoring and reporting of environmental trends and of the implementation of global environmental agreements at the regional level;

(c) Use innovative and pragmatic approaches to capacity-building of both human resources and institutions of ESCAP members and associate members in the area of sustainable development, focusing on the environmental impact of globalization and liberalization;

(d) Promote wider participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process and in the implementation of policies and decisions related to sustainable development;

(e) Support regional and subregional environmental cooperation through the strengthening of networks.

15.28 This strategy will be pursued through the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, and the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable

Development for Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in November 2001. The means to be used will include the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings; the conduct of research and studies; the provision of training and advisory services; the exchange of experiences and replication of best practices; and close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The millennium development goals pertaining to sustainable development and access to safe drinking water will also be addressed.

Expected accomplishments

15.29 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) improved national capability for the negotiation of and effective compliance with major multilateral environmental agreements; (b) strengthened national and local capacity in the monitoring and assessment of environmental and development trends; (c) enhanced national capacity to formulate and implement policies and plans for sustainable energy development; (d) improved national capability in renewable energy development, energy efficiency improvement and transboundary energy cooperation; (e) strengthened national capacity for strategic planning and management of water resources, improved access to safe drinking water and enhanced public awareness of water conservation; (f) increased participation of stakeholders in planning and implementing the replication of best practices in the management of the environment; and (g) increased national capacity to formulate and implement action plans for water-related natural disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Indicators of achievement

15.30 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of policies and measures introduced by members and associate members to implement, comply with and enforce multilateral environmental agreements; (b) the number of national and local assessment reports relating to environmental trends; (c) an increase in the number of members and associate members taking steps to incorporate strategic planning and management in their national energy policies and plans; (d) an increase in the number of national renewable energy plans introduced or improved, energy efficiency policies and measures introduced in energy-intensive establishments and evidence of enhanced subregional energy cooperation; (e) an increase in the number of policies and measures adopted to enhance the strategic planning and management of water resources, including policies for improved access to safe drinking water, and an increase in the number of public awareness campaigns on water resources conservation; (f) feedback from governments and civil society on the scope and level of participation of stakeholders in planning and implementing the replication of best practices in the management of the environment; and (g) an increase in the number of members and associate members that formulated and implemented national action plans for water-related natural disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Subprogramme 6
Information, communication and space technology *[new]*

Objective

15.31 The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to create an enabling environment for the development, transfer and application of information, communication and space technology.

Strategy

15.32 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme rests with the Technology Section of the International Trade and Industry Division and the Space Technology Applications Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Focus on the development of a legal and regulatory framework and competition policies related to investment and the provision of information, communication and space technology infrastructure and services;

(b) Support national efforts for the application of information and communication technology in various economic and social sectors, particularly for strengthening the competitiveness of products and services;

(c) Promote satellite-based information and communication technology applications, in particular integrated remote-sensing and satellite communications

for remote and rural areas, distance education and sustainable development planning;

(d) Promote the use of information, communication and space technology applications, by, among other things, facilitating adaptation to local conditions or transfer of best practices.

15.33 This strategy will be pursued through the implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium. The strategy will also be pursued through the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings, the undertaking of research and studies, the implementation of operational activities, including training and pilot projects, the provision of advisory services and the provision of regional and inter-subregional networking.

Expected accomplishments

15.34 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) improved national information and communication technology policy and regulatory frameworks and strengthened institutional capacity to facilitate the national development of such technology; (b) enhanced regional cooperation in information and communication technology applications to support national efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of products and services; (c) enhanced regional cooperation in space technology applications to support national disaster management efforts; (d) enhanced regional cooperation in the application of information and space technologies to support national efforts to reduce poverty; and (e) enhanced national capacity to utilize information and space technologies for environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management.

Indicators of achievements

15.35 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of members and associate members receiving assistance from ESCAP and new initiatives taken by them in improving their information and communication technology policies and institutional framework; (b) the number of national information and communication technology training centres upgraded and activities related to technical cooperation among developing countries organized with the assistance of ESCAP; (c) the establishment of a regional cooperative mechanism on space technology applications to support national disaster management efforts; (d) the number of pilot projects on the application of information and space technologies implemented with the assistance of ESCAP to support national efforts to reduce poverty; and (e) an increase in the number of activities organized by ESCAP, particularly through technical cooperation among developing countries, utilizing information and space technologies for environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management.

Subprogramme 7
Emerging social issues

[replaces old subprogramme 3; old paras. 15.16-15.19 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

15.36 The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members in the development and implementation of policies and programmes to address persistent and emerging social issues in their evolving manifestations. These issues include:

- The equal participation and human security of socially vulnerable groups (women, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS) in the context of rapid socio-economic and demographic change;
- Health and development issues, particularly focusing on the socio-economic implications of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

Strategy

15.37 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme rests with the Social Development Division, which will pursue the following strategy:

(a) Advocate the prioritization of emerging social issues in national policies and programmes as well as budgetary allocations;

(b) Promote multisectoral partnerships among national and local governments, United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, the private sector and

civil society for more effective responses to address persistent and emerging social issues;

(c) Strengthen national institutions to allow them to more effectively undertake policy analysis of emerging social issues as mentioned above, including those arising from changing population trends and dynamics;

(d) Document and promote the adaptation of good practices in addressing emerging social issues in diverse policy and implementation environments;

(e) Strengthen the capability of national and local personnel in the planning and delivery of health and social services for socially vulnerable groups;

(f) Strengthen the mainstreaming of the gender dimension, HIV/AIDS-related issues, disability concerns and ageing-related issues in national policies and programmes.

15.38 In pursuing the strategy, emphasis will be given to promoting regional cooperation towards fulfilling the millennium development goals pertaining to the empowerment of women; combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and fighting drug abuse and transnational crime, including trafficking in human beings and focusing on youth. The subprogramme will also address issues related to the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and the changing demographic dynamics, including the trend towards the ageing of the population and increased mobility. This will be achieved through close collaboration with governments and multi-stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations and intergovernmental and expert group meetings, analysis and dissemination of data and information to enhance awareness of critical social issues and appropriate multisectoral responses and national capacity-building through the provision of training and advisory services.

Expected accomplishments

15.39 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) a higher priority accorded by national and local-level policy makers and programme managers to emerging social issues as defined above; (b) enhanced capacity of national institutions to undertake policies to address emerging social issues; (c) good practices in addressing emerging social issues adapted by governments and civil society to diverse environments; (d) a greater ability of national and local personnel to plan and deliver more effective health and social services for socially vulnerable groups; (e) the development and implementation of increased multisectoral programmes and projects by diverse national and local actors (e.g. governments, United Nations system bodies and agencies and civil society actors, including representatives of socially vulnerable groups) to address emerging social issues; and (f) greater commitments by governments to further mainstream the gender dimension, HIV/AIDS-related issues and disability concerns in national policies and programmes.

Indicators of achievement

15.40 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) an increase in the level of human and financial resources allocated at the national and local levels to address emerging social issues as defined above; (b) the number of national institutions receiving ESCAP assistance in undertaking a policy analysis of emerging social issues; (c) feedback from governments and civil society on the relevance of the good practices disseminated by ESCAP for local and/or national adaptation; (d) the provision of further training and/or the planning of specific actions in applying the knowledge gained by national and local-level personnel who have participated in ESCAP training and policy seminars to improve the effectiveness of health and social services for the vulnerable groups; (e) an increase in the number of joint activities among diverse national and local actors (i.e. governments, United Nations system bodies and agencies and civil society actors, including representatives of vulnerable groups) to address emerging social issues; and (f) the number and nature of directives issued by governments to support the mainstreaming of the gender dimension, HIV/AIDS-related issues and disability concerns in national policies and programmes.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

General Assembly resolutions

53/181	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/191	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/181	Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity
56/185	Business and development
56/198	Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
56/205	Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1999/55	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
2000/5	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

52/6	Promotion of environmentally sound and healthy cities
55/2	Economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region
56/1	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/209	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution

246 (XLII)	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3
Trade and investment

General Assembly resolutions

54/100	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/191	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
56/76	Towards global partnerships
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/178	International trade and development
56/180	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries
56/209	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

Economic and Social Council resolution

2000/5	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

52/10	Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment
56/1	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

57/5	Integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system

Subprogramme 4
Transport and tourism

General Assembly resolutions

54/100	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/181	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/180	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries
56/198	Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic and Social Council resolution

2000/5	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

48/11	Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures
52/9	Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges
55/1	Sustainable development of inland water transport in the Asian and Pacific region
56/1	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Subprogramme 5
Environment and sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21
54/218	Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

56/195 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

56/198 Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

53/3 Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

56/4 Promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island States

57/2 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000

57/6 Implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005, in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development

Subprogramme 6
Information, communication and space technology

General Assembly resolutions

54/67 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration

56/95 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

56/183 World Summit on the Information Society

Economic and Social Council resolution

2000/6 Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

56/3 Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

57/4 Regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development

Subprogramme 7
Emerging social issues

General Assembly resolutions

53/183 Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

54/135 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration

55/71	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/115	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
56/117	Policies and programmes involving youth
56/131	Violence against women migrant workers
56/177	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
56/188	Women in development
56/189	Human resources development
56/228	Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing
56/229	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Economic and Social Council resolution

2000/5	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

53/4	Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific
54/1	Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century
54/2	Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region
54/4	Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region
55/4	Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific
56/1	Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009
56/2	Advancing human resources development in Asia and the Pacific
57/1	Regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific

57/3 **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**